

Golin receives Weaver Medal of Honor at annual ceremony

Recipient delivers lecture on major pharmacy lawsuit, importance of independent pharmacies

Drake alumnus Barry Golin recently received the first Lawrence C. and Delores M. Weaver Medal of Honor – the highest award presented by the Drake University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Golin, PH'61, is president of Barry Drugs Inc., which operates four community pharmacies in Chicago and Skokie, Illinois. He helped bring about a lawsuit in federal court to fight discriminatory pricing by pharmaceutical manufacturers; to date, out-of-court settlements on behalf of the independent pharmacists total \$718 million.

“Taking on the practices of corporate giants involves a lot of discomfort. Doing so voluntarily, to me, defines courage,” said Richard Morrow, interim dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

As the recipient of the Weaver Medal of Honor, Golin delivered the first Weaver Medal of Honor Lecture at Drake. He discussed the lawsuit that aims to give community pharmacies more equal footing with the HMOs, mail-order



Lawrence and Delores Weaver, left, congratulate Juraine and Barry Golin.

drug companies and hospitals that had received unfair discounts from pharmaceutical makers. So far, the case has spanned six years and is currently in the appeals process after receiving a directed verdict on behalf of the defendants.

Despite the setback, Golin still sees the whole process as a victory for inde-

pendent pharmacies.

“The good that has resulted from the settlements with 19 manufacturers is that we have now exposed the discrimination, which originally destroyed our partnership, and now perhaps we can proceed with a new spirit of cooperation,” Golin said in his speech.

Another positive to come out of the suit is that 15 percent of the first \$373 million, or \$18.6 million, will go into a foundation for the benefit of community pharmacy. The American Pharmacy Foundation’s mission is to “raise pharmacy to a new level where pharmaceutical care and disease state management is concerned, and to elevate community pharmacy’s position in the brand name prescription marketplace,” Golin said.

The Weaver Medal of Honor was established by Lawrence Weaver, PH'49, Hon. D.Sc.'92, dean emeritus of the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, and his wife, Delores, an active volunteer in her community.